

and food banks, the Lions Club has given all its support to promoting a better quality of life to the people it touches. It has also been heavily active in youth development. The Lions-Quest program provides youth with a sense of community, as well as tools and assistance for their success in the future.

With a diverse Hispanic community in West New York, the Lions Club has been active in helping in disaster relief and rebuilding efforts to many areas in the Caribbean and Central and South America impacted by natural disasters. It has been a force in gathering necessary supplies and food to help in times of need, and takes tremendous pride in the positive difference it makes in the lives of the people in its community and around the world.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the members and officers, past and present, of the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson in recognition of their outstanding contributions and caring dedication to our community over the last 25 years.

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TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT  
STACEY CRAIG BRANDON

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**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, to die for one's country, while tragic, is the ultimate honor. To die for the freedom of others may not carry with it an adequate expression to illustrate the debt it generates. Today, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Stacey Brandon who was killed during his tour of duty in Taji, Iraq. He was 35 years-old.

Staff Sergeant Brandon joined the National Guard in 1990 and when he was called to active duty for "Iraqi Freedom" on October 12, 2003, he answered the call and served his country with honor. His ability, intelligence and dedication quickly earned him a promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant in February 2004.

Despite his notable dedication to his country, he was a husband and a father first. A son, a brother, a friend, an athlete and a light of optimism others were drawn to always. Along with the many lives he touched, Staff Sergeant Brandon carried God in his heart. He was a passionate singer of gospel music and he and his wife, April, joined the Hazen First Baptist Church upon their move to Hazen, Arkansas.

We can ask nothing greater from a human being than to anonymously fight to the end to help people they may have never met. Unfortunately for those left behind, this soldier has a name. He has the respect of those whose lives he touched, and, now, grieving family and friends who I offer my deepest sympathies and utmost respect.

Staff Sergeant Brandon will be remembered for his honor, his mettle, his bravery and his commitment to his family, his God and his country. On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect for a fine American, a loving father, husband and son, and the perfect model of a patriot.

FREEDOM FOR JORGE OLIVERA  
CASTILLO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Jorge Olivera Castillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Olivera Castillo worked for 10 years as a national television editor. After being confronted on a daily basis with the blatantly false propaganda mandated by the tyrannical regime, he left his job to join other pro-democracy activists working for freedom and human rights for every Cuban citizen. Using his skills as a journalist, Mr. Olivera Castillo began to report on the brutal policies of the totalitarian regime. He later became the director of the Havana Press agency. Starting in 2001, Mr. Olivera Castillo's articles concerning the state of Cuba under totalitarian rule were published in Spain.

Because of Mr. Olivera Castillo's unrelenting commitment to writing the truth about the totalitarian regime, he has been constantly harassed by the dictator's thugs. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Olivera Castillo has been expelled from his house, arrested, and accused of "counterrevolutionary" activities by the tyrant Castro. During the brutal March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists and independent journalists, Mr. Olivera Castillo was arrested. In a sham trial, Mr. Olivera Castillo was sentenced to 18 years in the totalitarian gulag because of his commitment to truth over propaganda.

Mr. Olivera Castillo is currently languishing in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag. Reporters Without Borders reports that Mr. Olivera Castillo is suffering from numerous medical problems, is confined with common prisoners, and is being forced to drink seriously polluted water. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Olivera Castillo is suffering in a grotesque, inhumane, totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom. My colleagues, we can no longer allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate freedom for Jorge Olivera Castillo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 2004 National Day of Prayer—a day set aside by millions of people across this country to acknowledge God and give him thanks for all that is truly good. Once again, we are reminded of our need for him in the midst of turmoil and suffering around the world, and we recall our need to listen and hear from the Almighty.

Right now there are thousands of young men and women in uniform who are bravely serving this country in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other foreign countries. We ask God to protect them and grant them favor. We ask God to comfort their families and loved ones who eagerly await their return. Let us continue to pray for peace in these lands and for reconciliation among its people.

Throughout American history—from the earliest settlers to the Continental Congress, from General George Washington to President George W. Bush—the American people have called upon the Providence of God.

In 1775, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer, and then in 1988, the law was amended designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Our country has witnessed the benefits of national prayer and fasting in times past, and I hope citizens from all walks of life will humbly acknowledge God and seek his guidance, strength and resolve.

Let us remember to pray for our President, his Cabinet, military leaders, Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, State governors and local officials.

And may we, like our Founding Fathers, earnestly seek to know God's will for us and our country on this national day of prayer.

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RECOGNIZING MR. CLYDE  
LEHMANN

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day during Teacher Appreciation Week in recognition of a very special person, Clyde Lehmann. Mr. Lehmann has been selected to receive the 2004 Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is a very prestigious award that acknowledges quality teachers, and highlights how they are required to ensure the academic success of America's students. It is bestowed upon K-12 teachers in recognition of demonstrated excellence in teaching. Awardees are chosen based upon their: Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school and profession; outstanding accomplishments and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community.

Mr. Lehmann has certainly earned such an award. As a Latin teacher at Northside Health Careers High School, he uses creativity to keep his students interested in learning. He accomplishes this by using poetry, performance, song, and even travel to pique students' interest in his classes.

His unfaltering dedication to the achievement of his students is reflected in their impressive academic successes—a large number of Mr. Lehmann's students have earned gold and silver medals at National Latin competitions. He has demonstrated his interest in and passion for Latin through his teaching. This passion has seemingly been contagious—four of his former students have become Latin teachers.